

Syllabus for UWXSC231

Crime and Criminal Justice

NOTE: This syllabus document contains the basic information of this course. The most current syllabus is available in the full course.

Course Description

Explores the nature of crime and reviews ideas about definitions, causes, and solutions. Includes an introduction to the day-to-day functioning of the criminal justice system, the police, lawyers, courts, and correctional personnel.

Prerequisite(s)

Not recommended for first-semester students

Course Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Analyze and evaluate the ways in which deviance and crime are socially constructed, functional, and intersectional with power imbalances.
- Identify the pursuits of justice and creations of legal systems across history and contemporary cultures.
- Critically analyze and interpret quantitative and qualitative criminological data.
- Understand sociological theories and philosophies of justice as they relate to explanations of crime, and relate these to the variety of approaches to justice.
- Recognize and identify the various categories of criminal offenses.
- Identify the demographic and social structural characteristics common among groups of criminal offenders and of victims.
- Delineate operations of each of the three branches of the criminal justice system, the challenges facing each branch in contemporary American society, and the complex interconnections and interdependencies within this system.
- Identify how the criminal justice system is differently experienced on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and/or social class, including intercultural comparisons.

Course Requirements/Components

This course is divided into 15 lessons, one for each week of the semester. For each lesson, you will need to read a combination of textbook material, supplemental readings

as posted, and written portions of lesson commentaries. You will also need to view posted video lectures and related video clips. Extensive note taking on all of these materials is highly recommended. Within each lesson, to elevate the learning and assist your mastery of the materials, you will need to participate in a lesson discussion on the course canvas discussion board, and you will need to submit a lesson assignment, as directed.

Grading

The following grading scale will be used to evaluate all course requirements and to determine your final grade:

Percent	Letter Grade
93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
60-66%	D
59 and under	F

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

- 1) Assignments (50%)
- 2) Discussions (30%)
- 3) Interview Paper (20%)